AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of making an insulating glass (IG) window unit, the method comprising:

sputtering a multi-layered low-E coating onto a glass substrate, wherein the low-E coating comprises at least one infrared (IR) reflecting layer comprising silver sandwiched between at least first and second dielectric layers;

adhering a flexible protective sheet in non-liquid form to a top surface the low-E coating via an adhesive layer to form a protected coated article;

following adhering of the protective sheet to the top surface of the low-E coating, shipping the protected coated article to a fabricator of IG window units;

the fabricator cutting the protected coated article into an appropriate shape and size with the protective sheet thereon, edge seaming the protected coated article with the protective sheet thereon, and washing the protected coated article with the protective sheet thereon, so that following the cutting, edge seaming and washing the protective sheet remains adhered to the top surface of the low-E coating via the adhesive layer;

following said cutting, edge seaming and washing, peeling the protective sheet off of the top surface of the low-E coating to form an unprotected coated article;

after peeling the protective sheet off of the top surface of the low-E coating, inserting the unprotected coated article into a furnace and thermally tempering the unprotected coated article including the glass substrate and low-E coating in the furnace; and

after said tempering, coupling the tempered coated article including the glass substrate and low-E coating to another glass substrate to form an IG window unit.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein an uppermost layer of the low-E coating comprises silicon nitride, wherein the protective sheet is adhered to the layer comprising silicon nitride via the adhesive layer.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer comprises acrylic.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the protective sheet comprises polyethylene.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the protective sheet has a visible transmission of less than 70%.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the IG window unit has a visible transmission of from 60 to 75%.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the protective sheet is blue and/or green colored.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, where the unprotected coated article, after peeling off of the protective sheet and at least part of the adhesive layer, is at least 3 times more resistant

to scratching via a glove mar test than is a comparative coated article including the glass substrate and low-E coating which never had applied thereto the adhesive layer and protective sheet.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, where the unprotected coated article, after peeling off of the protective sheet and at least part of the adhesive layer, is at least 5 times more resistant to scratching via a glove mar test than is a comparative coated article including the glass substrate and low-E coating which never had applied thereto the adhesive layer and protective sheet.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, where the unprotected coated article, after peeling off of the protective sheet and at least part of the adhesive layer, is at least 3 times more resistant to scratching via an abrasion brush test than is a comparative coated article including the glass substrate and low-E coating which never had applied thereto the adhesive layer and protective sheet.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, where the unprotected coated article, after peeling off of the protective sheet and at least part of the adhesive layer, is at least 5 times more resistant to scratching via an abrasion brush test than is a comparative coated article including the glass substrate and low-E coating which never had applied thereto the adhesive layer and protective sheet.

12. (Original) A method of making a window unit, the method comprising:

sputtering a multi-layered low-E coating onto a glass substrate, wherein the low-E coating comprises at least one infrared (IR) reflecting layer sandwiched between at least first and second dielectric layers;

adhering a protective sheet in non-liquid form to a top surface the low-E coating to form a protected coated article;

following adhering of the protective sheet to the top surface of the low-E coating, cutting the protected coated article into at least one shape and size with the protective sheet thereon, and thereafter washing the protected coated article with the protective sheet thereon, so that following the cutting and washing the protective sheet remains adhered to the top surface of the low-E coating;

following said cutting and washing, peeling the protective sheet off of the top surface of the low-E coating to form an unprotected coated article;

after peeling the protective sheet off of the top surface of the low-E coating, inserting the unprotected coated article into a furnace and heat treating the unprotected coated article including the glass substrate and low-E coating in the furnace; and

after said tempering, using the tempered coated article in making a window unit.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein an uppermost layer of the low-E coating comprises silicon nitride, wherein the protective sheet is adhered to the layer comprising silicon nitride via the adhesive layer.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the adhesive layer comprises acrylic.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the protective sheet comprises polyethylene.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the protective sheet has a visible transmission of less than 70%.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the window unit has a visible transmission of from 60 to 75%.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the protective sheet is blue and/or green colored.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12, where the unprotected coated article, after peeling off of the protective sheet, is at least 3 times more resistant to scratching via an abrasion test than is a comparative coated article including the glass substrate and low-E coating which never had applied thereto the protective sheet.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12, where the unprotected coated article, after peeling off of the protective sheet, is at least 5 times more resistant to scratching via an abrasion test than is a comparative coated article including the glass substrate and low-E coating which never had applied thereto the protective sheet.

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adhering the flexible protective sheet in non-liquid form to the top surface of the low-E coating comprises applying the flexible protective coating to the surface when the surface is at a temperature of from about 60-120 degrees C.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adhering the flexible protective sheet in non-liquid form to the top surface of the low-E coating comprises applying the flexible protective coating to the surface when the surface is at a temperature of from about 90-120 degrees C.